

Police Organizing State Training ✓

Will develop child abduction response

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Duxbury's Police Department is only one of two towns in Massachusetts chosen to help develop the state's version of a national response to child abduction.

Sgt. Kristin Golden spent the last week of January in San Diego attending CART, or Child Abduction Response Teams training. The national program was launched after the abduction and brutal murder of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia in Sarasota, Fla. in February 2004. In 2005, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs announced an initiative to train regional CART.

Golden, along with an officer from Holden and eight representatives from the State Police, attended the training in California. The group was taught techniques to start up CART in Massachusetts.

"The whole premise is that it will be a multi-agency response to missing, endangered and abducted children," Golden said.

She added that Massachusetts will be divided up and even if a community's department is not a part of CART, that town or city will still receive CART's support should a child's life be jeopardized. Golden said the benefit to having CART in place is the amount of time it saves when the resources a department needs to help a child can be immediately accessed versus having to waste valuable time on organization. These resources include forensic experts, AMBER Alert coordinators and crime intelligence analysts.

"This will allow departments to respond in a timely, efficient manner. Otherwise by the time you find all of the resources, it could be too late," Golden said. "Time is of the essence."

Duxbury experienced the scary reality of searching for a missing child in November. Fortunately, Duxbury belongs to the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council, or MetroLEC. MetroLEC has 49 member cities and towns. Whenever an emergency



Sgt. Kristin Golden represented the Duxbury Police Department at a regional Child Abduction Response Teams training in San Diego at the end of January.

occurs in a certain place, personnel from all over the region will respond, allowing towns like Duxbury to access MetroLEC's canine unit, computer crime unit, crisis negotiation team, mobile operations motorcycle unit, regional response team and SWAT team. The missing child was later found safe and healthy.

It was during this very incident that Golden was introduced to State Trooper Nicole Morrell. Morrell, who is in charge of issuing the

child's age must be 17 or under and descriptive information such as what the child was wearing last or a license plate number. During the incident in Duxbury in January, Golden said there was not enough information to issue an AMBER Alert, but CART could have been used.

Golden also learned aspects of search and rescue at the CART training that she feels will help a community looking for a missing child. For example, the National Center for Missing and

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state's AMBER Alerts, also attended the CART training in San Diego. Like MetroLEC, but on a larger scale, CART will allow any community in the state to utilize the State Police communications department, helicopters and phone banks by simply dialing one central number.

Another benefit to CART is that it can be used for any missing child case whereas certain conditions must be in place for an AMBER Alert to be sent out. Golden said these conditions include the belief that the child is in danger of bodily harm or death, the

Exploited Children will make flyers to assist with publicizing the search. Duxbury Police Chief Mark DeLuca is pleased that Golden agreed to represent the department and is eager to share Golden's knowledge with neighboring towns.

"There are 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts and Duxbury being one of two communities invited to participate speaks volumes," DeLuca said. "It is a fantastic honor. Sgt. Golden was willing to take this on and that is a direct reflection of how she takes her job."

Golden said she and the other nine people from Massachusetts who participated in the training will now create a schedule to meet and develop the state's CART program. The eventual goal is to have the CART program become as successful as AMBER Alerts. The Department of Justice reports that AMBER Alerts have helped save the lives of over 231 children across the country.

"Who wouldn't want to help a child?" Golden said.